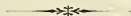


AMPTHILL *Beds*

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

1897.

AMPTHILL,

March, 1898.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Report upon the Sanitary Condition of the Town of Ampthill, for the year 1897.

The Population of Ampthill, according to Census of 1891, is 2,294. Area in Acres, 1,742.

The number of Births registered during the year was 54; including 30 Males, and 24 Females, corresponding to an Annual Birth-rate of 23·4 per 1,000, as compared with 21·3 per 1,000 in 1896.

The number of Deaths registered during the year was 40; including 15 Males and 25 Females, corresponding to an Annual Death-rate of 17·4 per 1,000. Of these Deaths 8 occurred in the Workhouse, including 2 Ampthill Parishioners, making the corrected Death-rate 14·8 per 1,000, as compared with 14·3 per 1,000 in 1896.

Of the total number of Deaths 5 occurred under 1 year; corresponding to an Annual Death-rate of 108 to 1,000 Births as compared with 81·6 in 1896; 3 between 1 and 5 years; 1 between 5 and 15 years; 2 between 15 and 25 years; 10 between 25 and 65 years; and 19 over 65 years.

Prevalence of Disease.—3 Deaths were due to Bronchitis; 1 to Puerperal Fever; 7 to Phthisis; 1 to Tuberculosis; 2 to Pneumonia; 3 to Brights Disease; 3 to Apoplexy; 1 to Abdominal Abscess; 1 to Premature Birth; 1 to Inanition (age 17 hours); 1 to Influenza; 1 to Croup; 1 to Diarrhoea; 1 to Hæmatemesis; 1 to Atrophia Cerebri; and 12 to Old Age.

The Infectious Diseases Notification Act still continues in force in the Town. 9 cases were notified during the year; 1 case of Enteric Fever; 1 case of Puerperal Fever; Fever; and 7 cases of Erysipelas.

The case of Enteric Fever was reported in January, it was the last case of the outbreak that occurred the latter part of the previous year in the Bedford Street district. Two wells supplying water in the neighbourhood on Analysis showed that sewage pollution had taken place and rendered them unfit for drinking, they were ordered to be closed for domestic purposes. A notice was sent to each householder in the district warning them to boil all water used for domestic purposes.

Influenza was epidemic in the Autumn and was the cause of one Death.

As reported, 1 Death was due to Diarrhœa. In this case the child (age 5 months) came on a visit to the Town from London, in August, and was suffering from the disease on its arrival.

Means of Prevention of Infectious Diseases.—Notification; Strict home Isolation; Children from infected families are prohibited from attending School; Closing of Schools when necessary; The houses and premises in which contagious illness has occurred are thoroughly disinfected by means of fumigation with sulphurous acid gas; Disinfectants are supplied gratuitously; Inquiries are made as to the cause of the disease and the sanitary condition of the premises are investigated and defects remedied.

Water Supply.—Amphill is supplied with water by wells sunk into the sand, the average depth appears to be 30 ft. The quality of the water found in the wells is in some cases too impure for drinking. The question of a public supply of water has been under the consideration of the Sanitary Authority for some time. During the year two attempts have been made to obtain a wholesome supply of water for the Town, in each case the quantity has been deficient.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.—A scheme for re-sewering the Town is under consideration by the Local Government Board.

Removal of Refuse, &c.—A system of public scavenging is well carried out by removal of refuse twice a week from each house.

Pollution of Streams and Watercourses.—Complaints have been made of the pollution of a stream passing through a Farm in the Flitwick Parish by the effluent from the Sewage Farm. The Sewage Farm receives special attention with a view to improving this effluent. I consider the purity of the effluent is maintained.

Premises Regulated by the Sanitary Authorities.—The Slaughter Houses, Cowsheds, Dairies and Bakehouses have been periodically inspected and their sanitary

condition maintained. There is no factory in the Town besides the brewery of Morris & Co., and the foundry for agricultural implements, &c., these do not employ any considerable number of hands.

House Sanitation.—The general condition of the houses of the working classes is good; there is no overcrowding either of houses upon ground or of inhabitants in the dwellings.

Adoption of Permissive Acts and Bye-Laws.—Notification of Infectious Diseases is compulsory in the District since November, 1893. The Building Bye-Laws are in force.

General Sanitation.—The District has been periodically inspected and any influences likely to effect the public health has been corrected as far as practicable.

The Inspector of Nuisances reported various nuisances of a minor character which have been attended to.


In consequence of the agitation which has been going on for some years the vaccination laws have not been enforced.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM J. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28805860>



